

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 18-20 and 22-27 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1 and 8 being independent.

Independent Claim 1, and selected dependent claims have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art. In addition, Claim 8 has been placed in independent form. In amending the claims, the objections identified in paragraph 4 of the Office Action have been attended to. Dependent Claims 22-27 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection.

Claims 6 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In response to this rejection, Claim 6 has been amended to recite that the reservoir and pump are operably connected between the first and second heat exchangers. In addition, Claim 21 has been cancelled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is therefore deemed to be appropriate and such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Endo '816 in view of Tyler. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicant's invention relates to an apparatus comprising a chamber which encloses equipment, and an air conditioner for controlling a supply of air supplied into the chamber. The air conditioner includes a refrigerator having a compressor and a condenser and using a refrigerant, a first heat exchanger for exchanging heat between the refrigerant and a coolant, a second heat exchanger for exchanging heat between the coolant and the supply of air supplied into the chamber, and an electric heater having a temperature sensor for heating the supply of air at a predetermined temperature. As amended, Claim 1 sets forth that the second

heat exchanger is disposed in a first housing proximate to the chamber, and the refrigerator and first heat exchanger are disposed in a second housing separate from the chamber.

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in Figure 2 and the accompanying specification beginning on page 15, line 27.

As discussed in the previous Amendment of September 30, 2003, the Endo patent relates to a temperature control system for an exposure apparatus in which a common refrigerant is used to cool both air and liquid. As shown in the figure, a temperature control system 4 uses a liquid medium to control the temperature of a projection lens. A separate temperature control system 3 uses air to control the temperature of chamber 2. In Endo the cooler 20 is interpreted as a first heat exchanger and coolers 8 or 14 are interpreted as a second heat exchanger.

In contrast to Applicant's Claim 1, however, Endo does not teach or suggest, among other features, providing the second heat exchanger in a first housing proximate to the chamber, and providing the refrigerator and the first heat exchanger in a second housing separate from the chamber. In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, the refrigerator and first heat exchanger can be separated from the chamber.

The secondary citation to Tyler is relied upon for its teaching of an electric heater. Tyler fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in Endo as discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Therefore, the proposed combination of Endo and Tyler, even if proper, still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention.

Independent Claim 8 relates to an apparatus comprised of a chamber and an air conditioner as set forth in Claim 1, and includes additional features of the refrigerator and the coolant. As in Claim 1, Claim 8 sets forth that the second heat exchanger is disposed in a first

housing proximate to the chamber, and the refrigerator and first heat exchanger are disposed in a second housing separate from the chamber. Claim 8 is therefore submitted to be patentable over the art for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1.

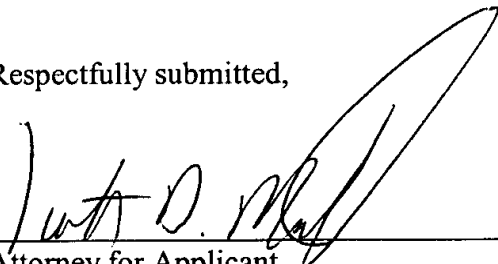
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 1 and 8 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11, 18-20 and 22-27 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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